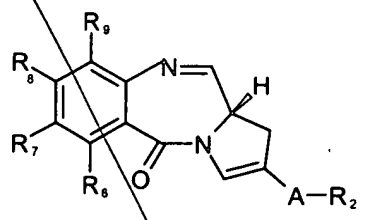
In the claims:

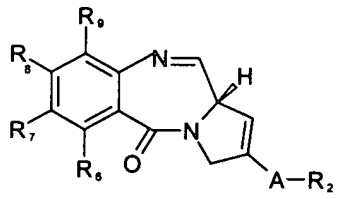
Please cancel claims 2, 11, 14, 22-24 and 39.

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Once amended.) A compound of the formula Ia or Ib:



(Ia)



(Ib)

wherein:

A is CH_2, or a single bond;

R_2 is selected from: R, OH, OR, CO_2H, CO_2R, COH, COR, SO_2R, CN;

R_6, R_7 and R_9 are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, halo, amino, NHR, nitro, Me_3Sn;

where R is a lower alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or an aralkyl group of up to 12 carbon atoms, whereof the alkyl group optionally contains one or more carbon-carbon double or triple bonds, which may form part of a conjugated system, or an aryl group of up to 12 carbon atoms; and is optionally substituted by one or more halo, hydroxy, amino, or nitro groups, and optionally containing one or more hetero atoms which may form part of, or be, a functional group;

and where the compound is a dimer with each monomer being the same or different and being of formula Ia or Ib, where the R_8 groups of the monomers form together a bridge having the formula -X-R^1-X- linking the monomers, where R^1 is an alkylene chain containing from 3 to 12 carbon atoms, which chain may be interrupted by one or more hetero-atoms and/or aromatic rings and may contain one or more carbon-carbon double or triple bonds, and each X is independently selected from O, S, or N;

Sub. C1 B5

or R_7 and R_8 together form a group $-O-(CH_2)_p-O-$, where p is 1 or 2; with the proviso that when A is a single bond, then R_2 is not $CH=CR^AR^B$, where R^A and R^B are independently selected from H, R^C, COR^C, $CONH_2$, $CONHR^C$, $CONR^C_2$, cyano or phosphonate, where R^C is an unsubstituted alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

Please amend claim 3 as follows:

B6 Sub D1

3. (Once amended.) A compound according to claim 1, wherein A is CH_2.

Please amend claim 6 as follows:

Sub C2 B7

6. (Once amended.) A compound according to claim 1, wherein A is a single bond, and R_2 is an aryl group, or an alkyl or alkaryl group which contains at least one double bond which forms part of a conjugated system with a double bond of a pyrrolobenzodiazepine.

Please amend claim 7 as follows:

B8 Sub D1

7. (Once amended.) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R_6, R_7 and R_9 and, unless the compound is a dimer, R_8 are independently selected from H and OR.

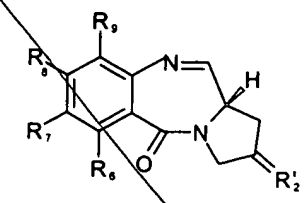
Please amend claim 12 as follows:

B9 Sub D1

12. (Once amended.) A compound according to claim 1 which is a dimer, wherein the dimer bridge is of the formula $-O-(CH_2)_q-O-$, where q is from 3 to 12.

Please amend claim 13 as follows:

13. (Once amended.) A compound of formula III:



(II)

wherein:

R'_2 is selected from: O;

R_6, R_7 and R_9 are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, halo, amino, NHR, nitro, Me_3Sn;

where R is a lower alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or an aralkyl group of up to 12 carbon atoms, whereof the alkyl group optionally contains one or more carbon-carbon double or triple bonds, which may form part of a conjugated system, or an aryl group of up to 12 carbon atoms; and is optionally substituted by one or more halo, hydroxy, amino, or nitro groups, and optionally containing one or more hetero atoms which may from part of, or be, a functional group;

and where the compound is a dimer with each monomer being the same or different and being of formula III, where the R_8 groups of the monomers form together a bridge having the formula -X-R^1-X- linking the monomers, where R^1 is an alkylene chain containing from 3 to 12 carbon atoms, which chain may be interrupted by one or more hetero-atoms and/or aromatic rings and may contain one or more carbon-carbon double or triple bonds, and each X is independently selected from O, S, or N.

Please amend claim 15 as follows:

15. (Once amended.) A compound according to claim 13, wherein R_6, R_7 and R_9 are independently selected from H, OR or a halogen atom.

Please amend claim 16 as follows:

16. (Once amended.) A compound according to claim 15, wherein R_6, R_7 and R_9 are independently selected from H, OMe, OCH_2Ph, and I.

Please amend claim 17 as follows:

17. (Once amended.) A compound according to claim 15, wherein R_7 is OR or a halogen and R_6 and R_9 are H.

Please amend claim 18 as follows:

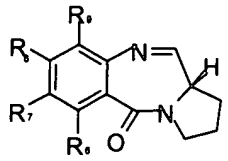
18. (Once amended.) A compound according to claim 17, wherein R_7 is selected from OMe, OCH_2Ph or I.

Please amend claim 19 as follows:

19. (Once amended.) A compound according to claim 13, wherein the dimer bridge is of the formula $-O-(CH_2)_q-O-$, where q is from 3 to 12.

Please amend claim 20 as follows:

20. (Once amended.) A compound of the formula IIII:



(III)

wherein:

R_6, R_7 and R_9 are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, halo, amino, NHR, nitro, Me_3Sn;

where R is a lower alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or an aralkyl group of up to 12 carbon atoms, whereof the alkyl group optionally contains one or more carbon-carbon double or triple bonds, which may form part of a conjugated system, or an aryl group of up to 12 carbon atoms; and is optionally substituted by one or more halo, hydroxy, amino, or nitro groups, and optionally containing one or more hetero atoms which may from part of, or be, a functional group;

and R_8 is selected from H, R, OH, OR, halo, amino, NHR, nitro, Me_3Sn, where R is as defined above or the compound is a dimer with each monomer being the same or different and being of formula IIII, where the R_8 groups of the monomers form together a bridge having the formula -X-R^1-X- linking the monomers, where R^1 is an alkylene chain containing from 3 to 12 carbon atoms, which chain may be interrupted by one or more hetero-atoms and/or aromatic rings and may contain one or more carbon-carbon double or triple bonds, and each X is independently selected from O, S, or N; or R_7 and R_8 together form a group -O-$(CH_2)_p$-O-, where p is 1 or 2; wherein at least one of R_6, R_7, R_8 and R_9 is NH_2.

Please amend claim 25 as follows:

25. (Once amended.) A compound according to claim 20, wherein at least one of R_6, R_7, R_8 and R_9 is an aryl group of up to 12 carbon atoms, which is optionally substituted by one or more halo, hydroxy, amino, or nitro groups, and optionally contains one or more hetero atoms which may from part of, or be, a functional group.

Please amend claim 28 as follows:

28. (Once amended.) A compound according to claim 20 where the compound is a dimer, wherein the dimer bridge is of the formula $-O-(CH_2)_q-O-$, where q is from 3 to 12.

Please amend claim 31 as follows:

31. (Once amended.) A compound according to claim 29, wherein R_7 is an electron donating group.

Please amend claim 32 as follows:

32. (Once amended.) A compound according to claim 29, wherein R_6 and R_9 are selected from H and OR.

Please amend claim 34 as follows:

34. (Once amended.) A compound according to claim 30, wherein n is 1 to 3.

Please amend claim 35 as follows:

35. (Once amended.) A compound according to claim 1, claim 13, claim 20 or claim 29 wherein R is selected from a lower alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or an aralkyl group of up to 12 carbon atoms, or an aryl group of up to 12 carbon atoms, optionally substituted by one or more halo, hydroxy, amino, or nitro groups.

Please amend claim 38 as follows:

B23 Sub C6

38. (Once amended.) A method of treating a condition which can be treated by regulation of gene expression comprising administering a compound according to claim 1, claim 13, claim 20 or claim 29 to a patient in need of such treatment.

Please amend claim 40 as follows:

B24 Sub C7

40. (Once amended.) A method of treating a gene-based disease comprising administering an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1, claim 13, claim 20 or claim 29 to a patient in need of such treatment.

Please amend claim 41 as follows:

B25

41. (Once amended.) A method of treating a viral, parasitic or bacterial infection comprising administering an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1, claim 13, claim 20 or claim 29 to a patient in need of such treatment.

Please amend claim 43 as follows:

B26 Sub C4

43. (Once amended.) A method of treating a cisplatin-refractory disease comprising administering an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1, claim 13, claim 20 or claim 29 to a patient in need of such treatment.

Please amend claim 44 as follows:

B27 Sub C10

44. (Once amended.) A method of inhibiting the growth of cisplatin-refractory cells which method comprises treating said cells with a compound according to claim 1, claim 13, claim 20 or claim 29.

Please amend claim 45 as follows:

B28

45. (Once amended.) A method according to claim 44 wherein said compound is 1,1'-[[(Propane-1,3-diyl)dioxy]bis(11a*S*)-7-methoxy-2-methylidene-1,2,3,11a-tetrahydro-5*H*-pyrrolo[2,1-*c*] [1,4] benzodiazepin-5-one].

Please add the following new claims.

Sub C11

46. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Sub C12

47. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 13 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

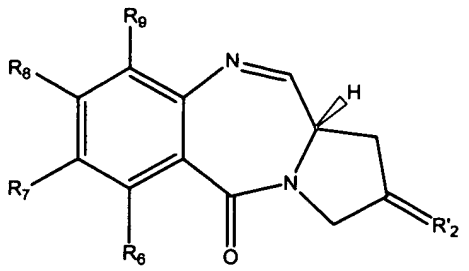
Sub C13

48. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 20 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Sub C14

49. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 29 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

50. A compound of formula III:



wherein:

R'_2 is CH_2;

R_6, R_7 and R_9 are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, halo, amino, NHR, nitro, Me_3Sn;

where R is lower alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or an aralkyl group of up to 12 carbon atoms, whereof the alkyl group optionally contains one or more carbon-carbon double or triple bonds, which may form part of a conjugated system, or an aryl group of up to 12 carbon atoms; and is optionally substituted by one or more halo, hydroxy, amino, or nitro groups, and optionally containing one or more hetero atoms which may from part of, or be, a functional group;

and R_8 is selected from H, R, OH, OR, halo, amino, NHR, nitro, Me_3Sn, where R is as defined above or the compound is a dimer with each monomer being the same or different and being of formula III, where the R_8 groups of the monomers form together a bridge having the formula $-X-R^1-X-$ linking the monomers, where R^1 is an alkylene chain containing from 3 to 12 carbon atoms, which chain may be interrupted by one or more hetero-atoms and/or aromatic rings and may contain one or more carbon-carbon double or triple bonds, and each X is independently selected from O, S, or N; or R_7 and R_8 together form group $-O-(CH_2)_p-O-$, where p is 1 or 2.

51. A compound according to claim 50, wherein R_6, R_7 and R_9 and, unless the compound is a dimer, R_8 are independently selected from H, OR or a halogen atom.

52. A compound according to claim 51, wherein R_6, R_7 and R_9 and, unless the compound is a dimer, R_8 are independently selected from H, OMe, OCH_2Ph, and I.

53. A compound according to claim 51, wherein R_7 and, unless the compound is a dimer, R_8 are independently OR or a halogen atom and R_6 and R_9 are H.

54. A compound according to claim 53, wherein R_7 and, unless the compound is a dimer, R_8 are independently selected from OMe, OCH_2Ph or I.

55. A compound according to claim 50 which is a dimer, wherein the dimer bridge is of the formula $-O-(CH_2)_q-O-$, where q is from 3 to 12.